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FOOTBALL Fridays

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED



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NOVEMBER 5, 2011
VOLUME 31 | NO. 15 | \$4.95



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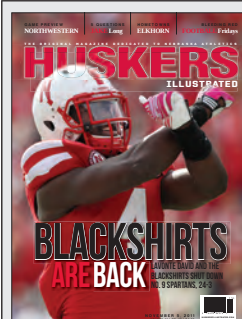
THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Huskers use old-school approach in win over Spartans

2011 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 3	CHATTANOOGA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 40-7
SEPT. 10	FRESNO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6:00P.M.	W, 42-29
SEPT. 17	WASHINGTON	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 51-38
SEPT. 24	@ WYOMING	LARAMIE, WYO.	6:30P.M.	W, 38-14
OCT. 1	@ WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS.	7:00P.M.	L, 14-48
OCT. 8	OHIO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7:00P.M.	W, 34-27
OCT. 22	@ MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS	2:30P.M.	W, 41-14
OCT. 29	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00A.M.	W, 24-3
NOV. 5	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	BTN
NOV. 12	@ PENN STATE	UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.	TBA	TBA
NOV. 19	@ MICHIGAN	ANN ARBOR, MICH.	TBA	TBA
NOV. 25	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11A.M.	ABC



ON THE COVER

Senior linebacker Lavonte David throws the bones after making a key stop in Nebraska's 24-3 victory over Michigan State. David was all over the field for Nebraska, leading the Blackshirts with 13 tackles, including six solo tackles.

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 31, Issue 16, the Northwestern recap and Northwestern preview will be mailed Monday, Nov. 7. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

BACK IN CONTROL

Huskers regain control of their own destiny for trip to Indianapolis

I WROTE LAST WEEK that some Husker fans may not realize just how much of a do-or-die game the contest Michigan State would be.

A loss would eliminate the Huskers from contention for the Legends Division title. Obviously, the guys in the Nebraska lockerroom knew the stakes.

Nebraska played its most impressive, inspired and instinctive game of the year and the results showed in the Cornhuskers' 24-3 victory over the Spartans.

At the heart of this gritty performance was a display from the Blackshirts, unlike anything else we've seen this season. The stars were all over the field. Eric Martin had a pair of sacks. Lance Thorell's interception might have been the play of the game. Andrew Green grew up before our eyes with great coverage and run support. Will Compton was solid and All-America candidates Alfonzo Dennard and Lavonte David lived up to the billing.

As has been the case since taking over as head coach, Bo Pelini's teams make incredible strides from game one through season's end. It appears the



Blackshirts may have turned the corner. While this year's squad doesn't have the personnel the last few teams have been blessed with, it came together as a team Saturday.

Offensively, Rex Burkhead's performance was equally inspiring. While Burkhead lacks the blazing speed of the great I-backs of Husker history, it's doubtful any have the heart of the shifty Texas native. He literally carried the offense, toting the ball 35 times for 130 yards and scored all three of Nebraska's touchdowns, including one on a 27-yard reception.

The task is still large for the Huskers, but they remain in control of their own destiny. Nebraska is tied for the division lead and now holds the tie-breaker over the Spartans. As the Huskers prepare for their November-run, they appear to have developed an identity on both sides of the ball as being hard-nosed and physical. It's a style that should help deliver a trip to Indianapolis. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





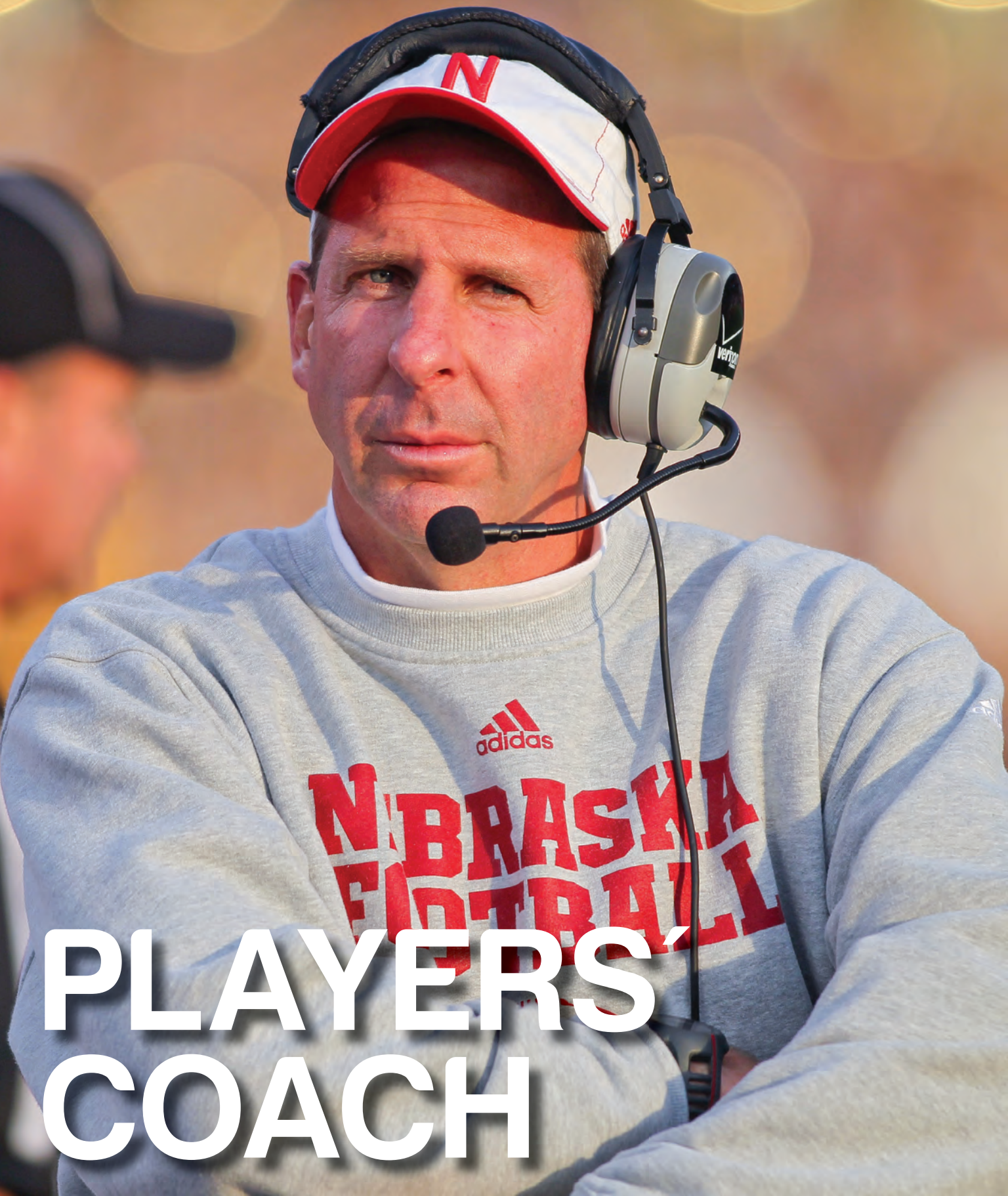
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PLAYERS'
COACH

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Bo Pelini can be, shall we say, demonstrative when critiquing players. But it's never personal, according to senior linebacker Lavonte David, who considers Pelini a players' coach.

The subject came up in July at Big Ten Media Days in Chicago.

"He looks out for your best interests," David said. "I mean, he looks out for the guys. When he sees a guy not doing well or whatever, he pulls him to the side and asks him what's going on, trying to figure out what's wrong. That's the type of coach you'd like to play for.

"He's looking out for you. That's the type of coach he was when you first come to visit. I mean, when I first came here, I met Coach Bo. He's still the same guy that he is today."

David was asked if he'd be comfortable going to Pelini's office. "Yes, I would," said David. "He's like a friend to us as well, not only our coach but like a friend. You can go to him for advice when you need advice. Just the amount of respect he has for us, we give him the same amount of respect."

The most dramatic example of Pelini's demonstrative nature was his words with Taylor Martinez on the sideline during last season's Texas A&M game – a subject brought up in Chicago.

Such situations aren't "anything personal," Pelini said. "There's a tremendous trust. You can yell at a guy and you can discipline somebody for something that you disagree with and there's a trust between yourself and the player. You know, it happens and it's over with. Unfortunately, the media chose to talk about it and continue to talk about it. It's crazy. I discipline guys like that a lot.

"I talk to guys . . . if a guy needs talking to, our players know they're going to get a talking to. And that's why there's discipline in our program. That's why kids are doing the right things."

Pelini is old-school in his approach. "We live in this politically correct society where people say you can't raise your voice at somebody," he said. "Well, I disagree. I'm not changing.

"I bet if you asked our players, they don't want me to change. I'll end it at that."

The week before the Minnesota game, David was asked if Pelini was as hard on him this season as he was last season. "I think he's been hard on everybody, man," said David.

Pelini hasn't changed, and that's just fine with David.

"He expects big things out of me, so he's going to be on me hard no matter what, so, I mean, I just take it as it is. You want coaches like that to be in your corner," David said.

HI'S TOP5

FIVE BEST PUNTING SEASONS



Midway through the season, Brett Maher was on pace to break the Huskers' punting average. He was averaging 47.3 yards per punt going into the Minnesota game. However, his two punts against the Gophers were only slightly farther combined (49 yards), dropping his average to 45.5 yards on 25 punts, still within range of the school record. "I was more of a place-kicker, I think, in high school," said Maher. But "I knew coming in right away that maybe punting might be my best opportunity to get on the field."

He does both, of course, as well as kicking off, a triple-threat.

None of the top five did both. Punting as well as place-kicking allows him to stay more focused on the game, Maher said. "I'm sure if I was only doing one, I'd spend more time on the one I was doing, and I don't know that there'd be more of a benefit to that or not."

1	SAM KOCH, 2005 (71 PUNTS)	46.51
2	KYLE LARSON, 2003 (66)	45.12
3	DAN HADENFELDT, 1999 (65)	44.98
4	BILL LAFLEUR, 1998 (52)	44.94
5	JESS KOSCH, 1996 (44)	44.70



“PATCH” PLAYER

Jeremiah Sirles has always been a lineman, and always a center until he got to Bear Creek High School in Lakewood, Colo. Then he became a tackle, the position he plays now.

“I was always that ‘patch player,’” the 6-foot-6, 320-pound sophomore said. “I don’t know if they have that in Nebraska, but in Colorado if you’re over a certain weight limit, we had to wear a big black

patch that said you’re not allowed to carry the ball in the backfield.”

He was “always over that ‘patch’ limit,” said Sirles.

He didn’t develop a complex about having to wear the patch, Sirles said with a smile. “I just remember my mom sewing the big black patch on every year.

“But, hey, now it’s paying for college.”

And he doesn’t have to wear a black patch now.

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

By his own admission, wide receiver Jamal Turner is not patient

“I’m so impatient it’s crazy,” he said in early October.

That’s reflected in his play. And, at times, it’s cause for consternation on the part of offensive coordinator Tim Beck, who would prefer to see less dancing from the talented freshman.

He has seen on film “a lot of times I could have got the ball and just got north and got more yards,” said Turner. “But I’m a young player, and I’m still learning. I’m figuring out it’s not high school no more. It’s just me trying to score. I’m trying to make a big play, and I need to start letting the game come to me and stop trying to do too much. I just want to score, man. I just want to get in the end zone.”

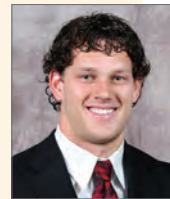
Turner had yet to get in the end zone seven games into the season.

Developing patience isn’t all that easy, as Turner has discovered. “It’s really hard because that’s how I play football,” he said. “I try to look at it like backyard football with my friends, just trying to make plays. But I’m trying to control it a lot more, not try to do it as much, try to play more calm.”

SIDELINES

SPECIAL TEAMS, ALWAYS

Senior **Austin Cassidy** is a starting safety now, so his role on special teams has diminished, though he still holds for Brett Maher on field goals and extra-point kicks. Nevertheless, “at heart, I would always describe myself as a special-teams guy,” said Cassidy. “That’s how I got my start. That’s the only reason why I ever stepped on the field. So it’s not something I would ever cross off.”



SOCIAL MEDIA

Freshman running backs Braylon Heard, Aaron Green and Ameer Abdullah are roommates. They hit it off with each other right away, according to Heard, who graduated high school a year before Green and Abdullah. “I first met both of them on, like, Twitter and stuff, and we’d talk on there a little bit,” Heard said with a laugh. “And then when I met ‘em in person, it was like I knew ‘em a little bit.

“Twitter first, Twitter and Facebook.”

DIFFERENT APPROACH

First-year defensive backs coach **Corey Raymond’s** approach is different from that of his predecessor, Marvin Sanders. “Each coach has their own way of teaching it (the position),” sophomore cornerback



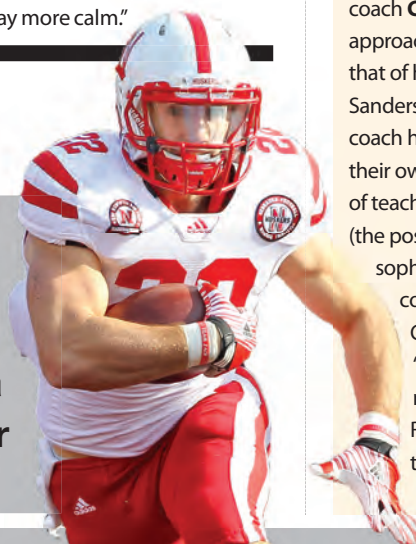
Ciante Evans said.

“Coach Sanders was a more ‘do-it’ guy. Coach Raymond is more of a technician guy.”

Center Mike Caputo on junior I-back Rex Burkhead’s improvement this season:

YOU HEARD IT

“I think Rex has always been a great player. He’s a guy that really does keep getting better and stuff like that. He’s just an awesome guy. He’s a great-character guy. I love blocking for him.”



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TOTAL PACKAGE

If Nebraska's wide receivers expect to catch passes, they have to be willing to block. Receivers coach Rich Fisher has made that abundantly clear. "I think for me from day one I've emphasized the complete package," said Fisher. "It's part of the prerequisite of playing the position."

"Our job is not to go out there and just catch footballs. We have a tremendous responsibility in the run game. And they have to understand exactly who's targeted, what the offensive line's targeting and who we're blocking and how we're going to block."

"It doesn't take a whole lot of encouragement because they understand that if they're going to get on the field and have some playing time, that's their role."

As for receiving, in some ways, it requires a defender's mentality. Just as a defensive player has to "want to make tackles, you've got to want to

beat the guy in front of you," Fisher said.

"There's got to be a desire to get open. At this level you can't be one-dimensional, and really at any level in order to have any type of success. You can't just be a receiver, catching receiver or blocking receiver. You've got to be the total package."

WHO'S THE FASTEST

Earlier this season, Kenny Bell said redshirted freshman wide receiver Tyler Wullenwaber, a walk-on from Utica, Neb., might be the fastest player on the team.

Quarterback Taylor Martinez would have to disagree. After Bell's 82-yard touchdown run against Minnesota, Martinez said: "I think he's the fastest player in the NCAA, honestly."

Martinez is no slouch as a runner, either.

IT'S ALL THE SAME

Freshman running backs Aaron Green, Braylon Heard and Ameer Abdullah haven't gotten a lot of carries in games, not with junior Rex Burkhead in the mix at I-back. But game action isn't the only basis for evaluation. "I think the big thing is just their practice reps," running backs coach Ron Brown said early in the season. "I don't like to (differentiate) between practice and game."

"They're out there playing. Every time we play it's live. It's for all the marbles. That's how they're going to get their experience, a combination of practice during the week and then the games."

Speculation was that at least one of the three would redshirt. But "I read their body language. They all wanted to play. Every one of them wanted to play, so I'm like, 'OK, let's go. Let's fire it up and let's go. Let's just throw it out there, man,'" said Brown.

Also, Nebraska has used sets with multiple running backs.

NEVER LOOKED BACK

For some Husker fans, anyway, Spencer Long has been among the pleasant surprises of this season. The sophomore walk-on from

Elkhorn, Neb., has started every game at right offensive guard.

Long's success hasn't surprised senior offensive tackle Yoshi Hardrick, however.

"I talked to him in the spring," Hardrick said. "I told him, 'You keep working and I think I'll see you up there with us playing on Saturdays.' I think he just took it and ran with it. When he got the opportunity to run with the 1's, he never looked back."

Offensive line coach Barney Cotton has called Long the team's best run-blocker.

IT'S ACADEMIC

Among the changes Nebraska Athletic Director Tom Osborne expects to see in the immediate future of NCAA athletics is an increase in the required APR score from 900 to 930. Failure to achieve the required score will result in serious penalties, such as bowl-game prohibition.

"All of our 23 sports met their required APR, so we're hopeful this isn't something that would affect us," Osborne said on his monthly radio show in October.

"But it does make sure that people are paying attention to their business."



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PHOTO BY MIKE BABCOCK

Learning humility

Corey Cooper, who came to Nebraska expecting to play safety, started the Wyoming game at cornerback, but he's played primarily on special teams since.

He redshirted last season as a freshman, and that was "very humbling," he said.

Given his expectations, if you had told him he would redshirt, "I'd probably have laughed at you," said Cooper. "I just knew I was going to play when I got here. Reality pretty much hit me, humbled me, and I learned the value of hard work and it's going to take a lot of dedication to get on the field.

"That's what I've been doing."

Cooper's physicality

earned him the shot at corner.

After the Wyoming game, defensive coordinator Carl Pelini was asked if the move from safety to corner was permanent. "It's temporarily permanent until he shows us he can't do it," Pelini said.

Cooper continues to work at both corner and safety. "We're trying to teach him how to do both," said defensive backs coach Corey Raymond. "That'll help him in the long run. He's on the depth chart. He's there. He's on the upper units. He just (needs) to continue working."

DIVISIONAL RIVALS

There's less uncertainty now but for a while, Husker fans weren't the only ones

trying to keep the Big Ten's divisions straight. The players had to learn the division alignments, too, with arguments settled by clicking on the Internet, according to junior end Ben Cotton. Such arguments have "died down a little bit," he said. "Guys are getting more confident, who's in our division and who's not."

Cotton has a system to help him remember the Legends Division alignment. "We know we have the M's, the N and Iowa, so I've got down that system pretty good," he said.

The M's are Michigan, Michigan State and Minnesota, and the N is Northwestern.

But you knew that, right?

FOOTBALL FRIDAYS

BLEEDING
BY TIM SIEDELL **RED**

The call came while I was sitting in my high school journalism class.

Keith Jackson and Frank Broyles, the two ABC announcers for the big Nebraska/Oklahoma match-up the following day, were down at Memorial Stadium and willing to chat with some future journalists. Anyone interested?

Yeah, me. Big time.

Not just because I was interested in sports journalism

and meeting two college football icons. (I was, of course.) And not just because it seemed like a perfectly great way to get out of school. (Duh.)

I was desperate to go because it was a Football Friday. And what better way to spend a Football Friday than down in Memorial Stadium, less than 24 hours from a match-up between two top-five teams? With TV

crews busily running cables and setting up equipment. With players going through a final walkthrough. With fans from out of town just milling around, not knowing what to do or where to go, but being drawn to the calm of the stadium before the next day's storm.

I had been feeling sick that day. A terrible cough. Barely had a voice. But I wasn't going to miss this opportunity for anything. So I raised my hand,

sprung from my chair, grabbed a pen and pad, and went down to the stadium with butterflies in my already flu-ravished stomach.

Because that's the thing about college football. The nervous anticipation. Every single game from the season-opener on is life or death, or at least championship or next year. There's a full six days to ponder the unique challenges the next team brings to the field. Six days to think through the individual

match-ups, and how they differ from the week before. Six days to ponder the ramifications of winning or losing. Six days to study the rankings and plot a path to the top.

Heck, if an NBA fan blinks, they miss five games. And lord knows I love baseball. But baseball is about pondering

strategy between pitches and innings. Until the final pennant stretch or playoffs, a single game is practically meaningless. There's so little anticipation for each game, in fact, that when one is completed, the two teams sometimes go ahead and play another. Baseball is a pastime. College football is a full-time stressfest.

Each day of the week builds in anticipation. And the game itself is just the custard center of

the delicious Friday-Saturday donut. There's high school football Friday night. Staying up late. Sleeping in. Crisp fall mornings. Maybe some errands. Maybe a YMCA soccer match. Other college teams to root for – whoever is playing a top-ten team (or against Notre Dame). All the while, nibbling towards that delicious creamy middle and kickoff to the only game that truly matters.

And if your team keeps winning, the stakes get higher and the anticipation builds with each passing week. And to a football-obsessed kid, it's magical. Win until Halloween and you'll have a huge smile under that Hulk mask. Win until Thanksgiving, a time of year already dedicated to

being out of school and eating pecan pie, and you'll have even more to be thankful for at the dinner table. Culminating, of course, with the beginning of the Christmas season. How much Husker gear I put on my Christmas list was dependent on if we could find a way to defeat the Sooners that year.

On this particular Saturday, however, Nebraska didn't find a way. We were treated to

another dose of Sooner Magic. But it was a Football Friday to remember. Me, and maybe four other high school kids, sitting on folding chairs and listening to Keith Jackson and Frank Broyles talk about the ins and outs of their jobs. I tried to suppress my cough as much as I could.

And when Keith Jackson came on to my set the next day to welcome a national television audience, I felt like I was a small part of the action. Even more so when Frank Broyles croaked out his introduction between coughs. Oops.

"Tim Siedell is a writer and humorist whose first book, "Marching Bands Are Just Homeless Orchestras" is available now through Amazon.

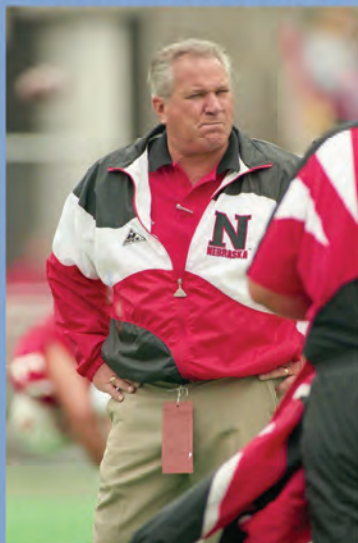
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Thomsen continues work to become difference-maker



KEVIN THOMSEN grew up in Elkhorn, Neb., but his hometown is Omaha now.

After a couple of years' worth of court battles, the last in the United States Supreme Court in late February of 2007, Omaha's annexation of Elkhorn became official.

Even so, "I think it'll always be its own city," said Thomsen. "People in Elkhorn take pride in being Elkhorn, so I don't think . . . for the people in Elkhorn it won't ever be Omaha."

That's why the football media guide lists the hometown of five current Huskers as Elkhorn, even though the Supreme Court ruling preceded the high school graduation of all five.

Thomsen is the oldest. The others are twin brothers Spencer and Jake Long, sophomores; Trevor Roach, a redshirted freshman; and Aaron Hayes, a true freshman.

All five walked on, after playing for coach Mark Wortman at Elkhorn High.

Elkhorn is "just a strong, strong football-oriented city, all the way through, down to little-league football," said Thomsen. "I know it's not that way in a lot of places."

"Little-league football works with the middle school, which works with the high school, and everybody works together to get the basic offense and defense of what we play in high school. So we've played the same type of offense and defense since third

grade. It's just sort of instilled in us since we were younger. You get numbers, and it just produces a lot of big-time football players."

That's changing now, out of necessity, a function of the opening of Elkhorn South High School in the fall of 2010. But the community's passion for football hasn't diminished.

Thomsen is a good role model, patiently waiting for a chance that came this season, after switching positions from fullback to linebacker to defensive end and now tight end.

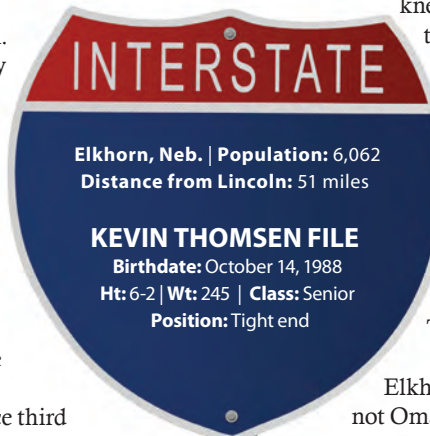
The switch to tight end came with "two or three days left in fall camp," said Thomsen, who started when the Huskers lined up with two tight ends against Fresno State.

Prior to this season, Thomsen had played in only one game, against Missouri a year ago. He sacked Tigers quarterback Blaine Gabbert, who's now playing for the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars.

Thomsen never considered giving up. "I never had any doubt I was going to leave here or do anything else besides this," he said. "Guys slowly get their chances, out of my buddies, and I just knew I was going to keep working. Whether I got one play my senior year or whatever, I wasn't going to quit."

Folks back home, "I think, know the kind of person I am," Thomsen said. And home is

Elkhorn, don't forget, not Omaha.



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Northwestern Wildcats

Losing streak puts damper on once-promising season | TERRY DOUGLASS

A season that began with reasonably optimistic expectations has turned sour for Northwestern, leaving the Wildcats in a position where they took a five-game losing streak into last Saturday's game against Indiana.

Possibly the most frustrating aspect for Northwestern

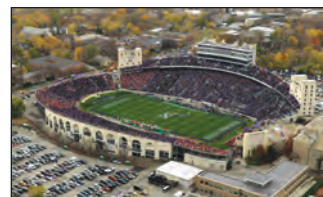
during consecutive losses to Army, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa and Penn State was that the Wildcats were competitive in every game. Coach Pat Fitzgerald's team was tied or held the lead during the second half in four of the five losses and actually led Penn State 24-20 with 47 seconds left in the

second quarter before losing 34-24.

"We've had plenty of opportunities to win the football game, but we just haven't done that," Fitzgerald said after the Penn State loss on Oct. 22. "That is on us and it is our responsibility, and we are going to get it fixed."



Dan Persa completed nearly 75 percent of his passes through his first five games, completing 98-of-131 attempts for 990 yards, six touchdowns with just three interceptions.



PAT FITZGERALD

Resume: The youngest head coach in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision when he

took over at Northwestern in 2006 at age 31, Pat Fitzgerald was 27-23 in his first four seasons at his alma mater where he was the first two-time winner of both the Bronko Nagurski Trophy and the Chuck Bednarik Award (1995 and 1996).

KNOW YOUR FOE

Dan Persa, QB, 6-1, 210, Sr.



Slow to recover from a torn Achilles suffered late last season, Persa missed the first three games this season. In the first four games after his return, he completed 75 percent of his pass attempts for 994 yards and six TDs.

Jeremy Ebert, WR, 6-0, 195, Sr.



Ebert led Northwestern with 44 receptions in his team's first seven games for 540 yards. During his career, Ebert has topped the 130-reception mark and has more than 1,770 receiving yards for the Wildcats.

David Nwabuisi, LB, 6-1, 240, Jr.



Nwabuisi led Northwestern through its first seven contests with 54 total tackles, including 24 solo stops. The junior from Houston has 4.5 tackles for loss, including a sack. His best game was a 12-tackle performance against Army.

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	at Boston College W, 24-17
9/10	Eastern Illinois W, 42-21
9/17	at Army L, 21-14
10/1	at Illinois L, 38-35
10/8	Michigan L, 42-24
10/15	at Iowa L, 41-31
10/22	Penn St. L, 34-24
10/29	at Indiana
11/5	at Nebraska
11/12	Rice
11/19	Minnesota
11/26	Michigan St.

PHOTO COURTESY NORTHWESTERN MEDIA RELATIONS

THEBIGTENBEAT

Paterno reaches milestone

No Division I coach has more victories than Penn State legend

| TERRY DOUGLASS



After tying Eddie Robinson's NCAA Division I record with his 408th career victory, Penn State head football coach Joe Paterno had little interest in acknowledging his milestone.

"I went to bed last night and I said, 'Geez, if we win tomorrow, I'm going to be tied with Eddie Robinson,'" Paterno joked.

Instead, Paterno took the opportunity to praise Robinson, who, he said, helped to shape the lives of many young men at Grambling State.

Eddie Robinson "is one of the greatest guys that we've ever had in coaching," Paterno said. "I'm a football coach. Eddie Robinson was a little more than a football coach."

Paterno's record-tying victory on Oct. 22 came at the expense of Northwestern, which was the continuation of a recurring theme. When Paterno recorded his 323rd career victory to tie Bear Bryant and when he notched his 400th win last season, the opponent was also Northwestern.

"There is a reason why Coach Paterno is tied with Eddie Robinson; he is the best ever," Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald told the Associated Press.

Despite reaching the top of the Division I coaching ranks, Paterno still trails John Gagliardi of Division III St. John's, Minn., who had 481 wins and counting going into last Saturday.

UNSELFISH HAWKEYE

Marvin McNutt's willingness to take a team-first approach has resulted in plenty of individual recognition for the Iowa senior wide receiver.

Recruited as a quarterback, McNutt has become the Hawkeyes' all-time leader in touchdown receptions as his three TD catches against Indiana on Oct. 22 gave him 24. Prior to that, McNutt had been tied for the record with Tim Dwight and Danan Hughes at 21 TD receptions.

"If you think about it, he made that move (to wide receiver) in '08 unselfishly," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz told the AP. "He's really worked hard. You don't set records by accident. It's a real tribute to his work ethic."

WOLVERINE MOVES ON

Michigan head coach Brady Hoke confirmed to the AP that freshman Greg Brown has decided to leave the program but declined further comment on the personnel matter.

Brown, a defensive back from Fremont, Ohio, saw limited action in three games this season. Three other freshmen — Kellen Jones, Chris Barnett and Tony Posada — along with junior Je'Ron Stokes previously left the program during Hoke's first season as the Wolverines' head coach.

BIG TEN ROUNDUP

► Michigan's Ryan Van Bergen, a senior defensive end, vowed Michigan won't struggle down the stretch again this season. "The leadership is different. The attitude is different," Van Bergen told the AP. "The main reason why it won't happen is because we won't let it happen. There's a sense of will not, there will not be a crash-and-burn."

► Ohio State wore new uniforms in last Saturday's home game against Wisconsin, thanks in large part to a lucrative marketing deal. The Buckeyes were honoring their 1961 national championship team (Football Writers Association) by wearing uniforms featuring steel-gray helmets with a deep scarlet stripe, scarlet jerseys and gray pants and socks.

► Buckeyes' running back Jaamal Berry has been named a suspect in an alleged assault, Ohio State athletics director Gene Smith told The Lantern, the school's daily student newspaper. The newspaper reported that a 21-year-old man -- a non-student -- was punched in the face in the early morning hours of Oct. 21.

► Michigan's Denard Robinson, Michigan State's Kirk Cousins and Wisconsin's Russell Wilson were among 16 semifinalists for the 2011 Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award, presented annually to the nation's top quarterback.

Young backs watch, learn from Burkhead

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

If you asked most Nebraska fans to choose Rex Burkhead's best game of the season, you'd get a range of answers.

Some might choose Burkhead's 119-yard rushing performance against Ohio State, where the junior scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns. Others might pick his 120-yard, two-touchdown performance against Washington.

If you asked Nebraska running backs coach Ron Brown, he'd tell you this: you're wrong.

While Burkhead's numbers to this point have certainly been impressive, what Brown likes most -- and what he's hoping to pass along to the trio of freshman running backs backing up Burkhead -- are the finer details necessary to be a standout running back at the BCS level.

Past the midpoint of the regular season, the Nebraska coaching staff has shown more confidence in freshmen running backs Ameer Abdullah, Braylon Heard and Aaron Green. The duo combined for 93 yards on 20 carries and a touchdown in Nebraska's win over Minnesota, and has been seeing playing time beyond mere mop-up duty. Burkhead's example and Brown's firm guidance are part of the reason for the success.

"It's so easy for them to get caught up in statistics and touchdowns, but my job as a coach is to keep them grounded," Brown said. "If you want to be on the field all the time, you need to be a great player."

What Brown means is pass protection. Toughness. The intangibles that don't show up in a box score. A freshman running back might show up on campus with 4.4 speed and moves that harken back to Barry Sanders, but the question Brown most wants to know: can you keep the quarterback clean?

Every day in practice, the young backs run blocking drills, watch video and more frequently, watch Rex.

"I've never had pass blocking stressed so much until I got to college," Green said. "It's not so much about running because all of us can run, but pass blocking is key. Protecting the quarterback."

Nebraska's backfield is crowded, and carries for the freshmen are scarce. In



“He’s such a great mentor for me. Hopefully I can continue the tradition he brought to Nebraska

Ameer Abdullah

many ways, Brown has been the perfect guide for the trio's first tour through college football -- the right mix of encouragement, empathy and tough love.

"I was impressed, he was just a man I felt like had a lot of integrity inside him," Green said. "Coach Brown is very intense. When we're in the meeting room, his voice is always high. When he's explaining something or we get in trouble, his voice is always high. When we do something good, his voice is always high and yelling, so Coach Brown is very intense."

Brown said he's not concerned about carries, and notes that teams such as Oregon, Alabama and others are stocked with running backs, too.

"There are a lot of teams with great backs," Brown said. "This isn't anything special and they're all playing with one ball. They have all one guy who gets most of the carries. It's not just about how many carries you get."

Back to our original question: Rex's best game. Brown says it's the Fresno State game, where Burkhead had his lowest rushing output of the season, but saved the Huskers with several big pass blocks late in the game.

The young backs noticed that game, and in a way, are fortunate to have Brown as their position coach, and Burkhead as a live example of what a good running back does.

Don't think they haven't noticed.

"I grew up in SEC country, and I grew up watching Trent Richardson, Mark Ingram and Ben Tate and all those running backs coming out of Alabama and Auburn," Abdullah said. "I've seen those guys and the same things they have, I see in Rex every day. He's such a great mentor for me. Hopefully I can continue the tradition he brought to Nebraska." **N**

*Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskiersIllustrated.com
Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz*



**TE, 6-4, 240, SO
ELKHORN, NEB.**

FIVE QUESTIONS

Jake Long

Twin, Spencer, is "bigger" brother in the family

Jake Long and Spencer Long are fraternal twins. They aren't identical.

Not only that, Spencer weighs some 60 pounds more than Jake, thanks in part to the Nebraska weight room.

So sometimes it takes some convincing when they tell people they're twins.

"Actually, a couple of guys on the team didn't even know until this year – guys who we've been playing with for a couple of years didn't know we were twins," Jake said.

Ironically, one of those skeptical teammates was Alfonzo Dennard,

who's a twin himself.

"It's a little easier when you're not identical. It's more like we're brothers," Jake said. "We just happen to be the same age. It's always nice

more at birth.

That's since changed; Jake is a 6-foot-4, 240-pound tight end, and Spencer, is a 6-4, 305-pound offensive lineman.

"He's always been a little bit heavier,"

Jake said. "At the beginning of high school, I kind of grew a little bit earlier. I was heavier for about a year or two, and by the time we

were juniors, he was a little bigger, about 20 pounds."

Jake joked that he's never wished he and Spencer were identical twins.

"Have you seen Spence? No, I don't wish that," said Jake.

to have somebody to compete with and do workouts with and stuff like that. It makes things easier."

Spencer is the older brother by only a minute; they were delivered by Caesarean section. But Jake weighed



1

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED:

Are you and your brother's personalities alike?

LONG: Yeah, we like the same stuff, like

the same people, pretty much do the same thing.



2

HI: You and Spencer played baseball, too. What position did you play?

LONG: Centerfield. Spencer didn't play baseball our senior year, though. He threw the shot.

3

HI: You're also both biology majors. What do you plan to do after school?

LONG: We want to take the same route, go to med school and stuff. I'd like to be a specialist of some sort, if I could, but that kind of decision will weigh itself out when I get there.

4

HI: Who's your favorite NFL team?

LONG: The Vikings, unfortunately. They're not doing so hot right now. But I think we're in the playoff for Andrew Luck.

5

HI: Where's the best place to get a steak in Elkhorn – or Omaha?

LONG: Elkhorn, it's my place. But Omaha, it's Mahogany.






by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT

MELTING CLOCK



While the scoreboard showed Nebraska had a 10-3 advantage on Michigan State at halftime, the lead was anything but comfortable for the Cornhuskers.

Despite some prime scoring chances, Nebraska's offense misfired at inopportune times, leaving the door wide open for the Spartans. The Huskers' offense had just 101 total yards — zero passing — leaving many in the crowd of 85,641 at Memorial Stadium with an uneasy feeling.

But that's when Nebraska's offense went to work. The Huskers put together touchdown drives of 14 and 12 plays, respectively, melting more than 11 minutes off the clock, while extending their lead to 21 points.

"That changed the game," Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini said. "Not only were we getting points, but we used a lot of clock. I always say it's the best defense when you're standing on the sideline watching the offense play."

Nebraska took the opening possession of the second half and marched 80 yards on 14 plays in 5:28, scoring on I-back Rex Burkhead's 1-yard TD run. On their next series, the Huskers went 89 yards on 12 plays in 5:44, scoring on Taylor Martinez's 27-yard pass to Burkhead to put the Huskers ahead 24-3 with 20 seconds left in the third quarter.

Martinez, who was 1-of-6 passing for zero yards in the first half, was 6-of-7 for 80 yards and a TD in the third quarter.

"Everyone was like, 'Man, zero yards passing at halftime, what's going on?' and I just kept telling them, '(Oh) ye of little faith — it's coming, just hang on. We're setting them up,'" Nebraska offensive coordinator Tim Beck said. "You have to wait for the right time to get the things that you need to get and we were able to do that."

Burkhead played a major role in Nebraska's third-quarter success. The junior from Plano, Texas, had 14 carries for 64 yards and a TD catch in the frame on his way to a career-high 35 rushing attempts for 130 yards.

As a result, Michigan State ran just eight offensive plays for 29 yards in the third quarter.

"As a defensive guy, I'm jacked about that," Nebraska safety Austin Cassidy said. "Because I know that their defenders are getting worn down." **N**

LANCE THORELL



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

BLACKSHIRTS BACK

Facing a Michigan State team that scored 37 points in an upset victory over Wisconsin on Oct. 22, Nebraska unleashed its best defensive performance of the season during a 24-3 victory over the Spartans at Memorial Stadium.

Afterwards, Nebraska linebacker Will Compton said defensive coordinator Carl Pelini informed his unit that their effort was Blackshirt-worthy and the famed practice jerseys would be handed out.

“He (said) he even thought about giving them to us this past week, but he wanted us to play with an effort that we hadn’t ever played with before and put together a full four-quarter game and I think we did so,” Compton said. “We’re excited about it.”

Nebraska established new season-best defensive marks, holding Michigan State to 187 total yards, 86 passing yards and 57 offensive plays. The Spartans converted just three of 14 third-down opportunities.

“They were locked in game-plan-wise, they did a great job of preparing and they played their tails off,” Pelini said. “Everybody was running to the football. I was awfully proud of our defense today.”

BUSY BURKHEAD

It was yet another busy day for Rex Burkhead as the Nebraska I-back rushed a career-high 35 times for 130 yards and two touchdowns. The junior also had a 27-yard scoring reception, putting the Huskers ahead 24-3 with 20 seconds remaining in the third quarter.

The heavy use apparently got to Burkhead, who briefly had to leave the game in the third quarter with a calf cramp before returning to action.

“Rex, unless he’s on crutches, he’s going to be out there,” Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. “He’s going to be out there fighting. Like I said, the guy’s a warrior. You can’t ask for much more than what he gives this football team.”

Burkhead got his 27-yard TD catch on his first play back in the lineup, sprinting under a pass lofted high into the air by quarterback Taylor Martinez.

“At the time I was hoping I didn’t cramp up again because it was only a few plays after (cramping),” Burkhead said. “Once I was in the open field all I was thinking about was, ‘Please don’t cramp up right now.’ Right when I caught it and turned I started feeling the tightness a little.”

STANDING TALL

Nebraska gave the Spartans a new look, frequently having its defensive linemen rush the passer from a standing position in third-down situations.

“I was trying to get us more aggressive in the pass rush, using our hands and (getting them to) let it loose a little bit instead of always being so careful and it worked,” Nebraska defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said. “It wasn’t so much to confuse Michigan State as it was to allow



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

DENNARD'S CHALLENGE

Michigan State wide receiver B.J. Cunningham, who entered the game with a team-leading 48 receptions this season, was completely shut out against Nebraska. Huskers' defensive coordinator Carl Pelini credited cornerback Alfonzo Dennard

with helping render Cunningham largely ineffective. "We talked about it the whole week that we were going to go out there and compete with them and have fun doing it," said Dennard, who noted that he's back to nearly 100 percent healthy after missing

the first three games of the season with a leg injury and had a career-high three pass breakups. "I have to give props to (Nebraska safety) Daimion Stafford. He was over me the whole game. He never let anything get behind me."

our guys some freedom in their pass rush."

Nebraska defensive end Eric Martin had two sacks, while fellow defensive end Cameron Meredith and defensive tackle Baker Steinkuhler had one sack apiece. Michigan State quarterback Kirk Cousins, who passed for 290 yards and three TDs against Wisconsin, was just 11 of 27 through the air for 86 yards with an interception against the Huskers.

BYE-WEEK BOUNCE

After allowing 31.2 points per game in its five contests prior to having an idle weekend, Nebraska's defense has given up a combined 17 points in its last two games, defeating Minnesota and Michigan State. Huskers' defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said that while some were quick to dismiss the strong

defensive showing against the struggling Gophers, he felt like his defense made significant progress during its bye week.

"What you saw out there today was a product of how we approached the bye week more than how we prepared this week," Pelini said. "We treated the bye week like a second (fall) camp and after knowing where we were defensively and what our weaknesses were, we were able to go back and tweak some things and really work fundamentals and techniques over the bye week.

"The last two weeks, it has been easier to game plan because you kind of have a better idea now what our guys can handle and what they can't handle. Hopefully that will continue as the season goes on."

DIVISION DRAMA

Nebraska's victory over Michigan State coupled with Michigan's win over Purdue has produced a three-way tie for first place in the Big Ten Conference's Legends Division standings at 3-1.

With the head-to-head victory over the Spartans, the Huskers now control their fate in the division title race and are solidly in the running for a spot in the first Big Ten championship game on Dec. 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Halfway through its Big Ten schedule, Nebraska still has games against Northwestern, at Penn State, at Michigan and at home against Iowa remaining on its regular-season slate. Northwestern, Michigan and Iowa are all divisional opponents.

"We've got to win out," Nebraska linebacker Will Compton said. "We've got to take them one game at a time and that attention to detail — every day — has to be there.

"We have to win out. We know what we have to do."

WORTH NOTING

► Nebraska's game captains were senior center Mike Caputo, junior I-back Rex Burkhead, senior defensive tackle Terrence Moore and senior linebacker Jim Ebke.

► With a victory over No. 9 Michigan State, Nebraska has defeated an Associated Press top 10-ranked team at Memorial Stadium in each of the last two seasons, also beating a No. 7 Missouri squad 31-17 last year. The Spartans are the second-highest ranked team the Huskers have defeated since 2001.

► By passing for 80 yards against Michigan State, Nebraska quarterback Taylor Martinez moved into the top 10 on Nebraska's all-time passing charts to stand ninth with 2,887 career passing yards. He surpassed both Steve Taylor (2,815 yards) and Jammal Lord (2,848 yards).



LE'VEON BELL #24 OF THE MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS GRABS THE FACEMASK OF ANDREW GREEN. BELL WAS CALLED FOR A PENALTY ON THE PLAY

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



**WHEN THE GAME
IS ON THE LINE
NOTHING IS LEFT TO CHANCE**

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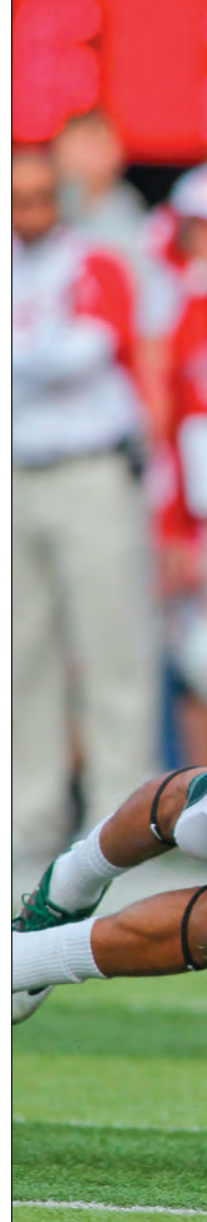


24

NEBRASKA

3

MICHIGAN ST



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Alfonzo Dennard #15 breaks up a pass intended for B.J. Cunningham. *Photo by Scott Bruhn* 2) Kenny Bell gets a first down after a catch against Michigan State's Johnny Adams. *Photo by Aaron Babcock* 3) Eric Martin celebrates after one of his two sacks of Michigan State quarterback Kirk Cousins. *Photo by Aaron Babcock* 4) Michigan State head coach Mark Dantonio yells at an official after a pass interference call. *Photo by Aaron Babcock* 5) Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini yells at an official after Rex Burkhead was charged with a fumble. The call was later overturned and ruled a touchdown. *Photo by Aaron Babcock*



RUSHING OFFENSE: Nebraska knew that moving the ball on the Spartans' talented front-seven was going to be a tall order, but Rex Burkhead ran tough between the tackles in the first half, picking up tough yards and taking plenty of punishment from William Gholston and Co. Nebraska never really got Taylor Martinez going in the first half, but after halftime, the Nebraska offensive coaching staff opened the running game, getting ball carriers outside the tackle and into space. Burkhead also stepped up his game and found the end zone for the second time on the Huskers' first drive of the second half. Burkhead bowled over a Michigan State defender for an 8-yard gain and then went into the end zone on the next play. It was obvious after halftime that Nebraska was looking to push the pace in the second half, and Nebraska slowly wore down the Spartan front-seven. Given what he was up against, this was easily Burkhead's finest game as a Husker.

A-

PASSING OFFENSE: If we were submitting grades before halftime, we'd be searching for a grade worse than an F. Martinez overthrew wide receivers, bounced throws into the turf and looked uncomfortable as the Spartans dialed up the pressure. Martinez finished the first half 1 for 6 for no yards and one interception on a deep route. Once Nebraska began to establish more of a running game in the second half, offensive coordinator Tim Beck seemed to put Martinez in more manageable passing situations. He found Brandon Kinnie for two completions on the opening drive of the third quarter to move the chains. The win is what matters, but this is probably a game Martinez, Beck and the rest of Nebraska's wide receiver corps would rather forget.

D

RUSHING DEFENSE: Michigan State ranked last in the Big Ten in rushing going into the game. But that might have been deceptive to a degree, given the Spartans' last three opponents: Ohio State, Michigan and Wisconsin. So credit Nebraska's defense for shutting down the run in a big way. The Spartans never had consistent success on the ground, or through the air for that matter. Nebraska rotated its front four, three tackles and five ends, keeping players fresh not only to pressure Kirk Cousins but also to stop the run. Lavonte David had another big day.

A

PASSING DEFENSE: Kirk Cousins got the job done with a Hail Mary pass against Wisconsin. But too many of his passes against the Huskers seemed to be of the Hail Mary variety, thrown into double coverage – even when he had time to throw. The Huskers' defensive line standing up on third down in passing situations seemed to confuse the Spartans in pass protection. And, of course, Lance Thorell's interception and 26-yard return on Michigan State's first possession gave Nebraska the momentum from the get-go. Andrew Green got the start at corner opposite Alfonzo Dennard and held the position throughout.

A

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: Nebraska's special teams were serviceable Saturday against Michigan State. The Huskers took advantage of several mistakes from the Spartans, including poor punting and a comically bad 52-yard field goal attempt from MSU kicker Dan Conroy, which fell well short, setting the Huskers up with good field position. The Huskers' Brett Maher kicked well in the first half, including a short field goal and pinning the Spartans inside the 20-yard line once. Kickoff coverage looked spotty following Nebraska's first touchdown, when Michigan State's Nick Hill ripped off a 62-yard return from the end zone to set the Spartans up with good field position. The Huskers' Ameer Abdullah also struggled with two fumbles, once muffing a punt and then losing the ball along the sidelines of a first half kick return.

B-



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON



Aaron Babcock
(5-2, 51-11)



Mike Babcock
(5-2, 50-12)



Michael Bruntz
(5-2, 48-14)



Terry Douglass
(5-2, 48-14)



Kevin Kugler
(5-2, 48-14)



Matt Davison
(5-2, 49-13)

	Last Week, Season	Aaron Babcock (5-2, 51-11)	Mike Babcock (5-2, 50-12)	Michael Bruntz (5-2, 48-14)	Terry Douglass (5-2, 48-14)	Kevin Kugler (5-2, 48-14)	Matt Davison (5-2, 49-13)
Northwestern at Nebraska		NU 35-17	NU 42-24	NU 38-24	NU 37-24	NU 41-31	NU 41-24
LSU at Alabama		BAMA 24-23	BAMA 17-15	BAMA 21-17	BAMA 14-10	LSU 35-21	BAMA 17-13
Kansas State at Oklahoma State		OSU 42-21	OSU 45-20	OSU 41-28	OSU 38-27	OSU 51-21	OSU 47-21
Texas A&M at Oklahoma		OU 34-17	OU 48-27	OU 31-24	OU 42-21	OU 41-27	OU 44-34
Michigan at Iowa		UM 35-17	UM 35-21	UM 31-17	IOWA 31-30	UM 35-31	UM 28-24
Texas Tech at Texas		UT 28-21	UT 38-35	UT 21-20	UT 35-31	TT 45-41	UT 34-21
Purdue at Wisconsin		UW 35-14	UW 49-15	UW 40-24	UW 40-17	UW 49-17	UW 44-14
South Carolina at Arkansas		UA 24-21	UA 21-20	USC 24-21	UA 27-20	UA 41-21	UA 27-21

SUMMARY

SCORING

October 29, 2011
Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 85,641

	1	2	3	4	F
MICHIGAN ST.	0	3	0	0	3
NEBRASKA	10	0	14	0	24

	NU	MSU
Q1 9:12 NEB - Burkhead, Rex 1 yd run (Maher, Brett kick), 7-25 2:49	0	7
1:21 NEB - Maher, Brett 20 yd field goal, 6-38 2:31	0	10
Q2 1:38 MSU - Conroy, Dan 28 yd field goal, 7-17 3:03	3	10
Q3 9:32 NEB - Burkhead, Rex 1 yd run (Maher, Brett kick), 14-80 5:28	3	17
00:20 NEB - Burkhead, Rex 27 yd pass from Martinez, Taylor (Maher kick), 12-89 5:44	3	24

TEAM STATS

	NU	MSU
FIRST DOWNS	12	18
Rushing	7	8
Passing	3	5
Penalty	2	5
NET YARDS RUSHING	101	190
Rushing Attempts	30	58
Average Per Rush	3.4	3.3
Rushing Touchdowns	0	2
Yards Gained Rushing	127	216
Yards Lost Rushing	26	26
NET YARDS PASSING	86	80
Comp-Att-Int	11-27-1	7-13-1
Average Per Attempt	3.2	6.2
Average Per Completion	7.8	11.4
Passing Touchdowns	0	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	187	270
Total offense plays	57	71
Average Gain Per Play	3.3	3.8
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	3-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	9-90	9-58
PUNTS-YARDS	5-182	4-173
Average Yards Per Punt	36.4	43.2
Net Yards Per Punt	33.2	35.5
Inside 20	1	1
50+ Yards	0	1
Touchbacks	1	0
Fair catch	1	1
KICKOFFS-YARDS	2-140	5-336
Average Yards Per Kickoff	70.0	67.2
Net Yards Per Kickoff	46.0	39.4
Touchbacks	1	1
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	3-31-0	1-4-0
Average Per Return	10.3	-4.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	4-119-0	1-28-0
Average Per Return	29.8	28.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-25-0	1-26-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	28:35	31:25
1st Quarter	6:58	8:02
2nd Quarter	9:06	5:54
3rd Quarter	3:48	11:12
4th Quarter	8:43	6:17
Third-Down Conversions	3 of 14	7 of 15
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 3	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-2	3-3
Touchdowns	0-2	2-3
Field goals	1-2	1-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-5	4-21
PAT Kicks	0-0	3-3
Field Goals	1-2	1-1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Burkhead, Rex	35	134	4	130	2	13	3.7
Marlowe, Tim	1	39	0	39	0	39	39.0
Martinez, Taylor	12	31	8	23	0	9	1.9
Green, Aaron	4	8	0	8	0	3	2.0
Bell, Kenny	1	4	0	4	0	4	4.0
Legate, Tyler	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
TEAM	3	0	7	-7	0	0	-2.3
Heard, Braylon	1	0	7	-7	0	0	-7.0
Totals	58	216	26	190	2	39	3.3

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Martinez, Taylor	7-13-1	80	1	27	1

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Kinnie, Brandon	2	23	0	12
Cotton, Ben	2	5	0	5
Burkhead, Rex	1	27	1	27
Bell, Kenny	1	19	0	19
Marlowe, Tim	1	6	0	6
Totals	7	80	1	27

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Maher, Brett	4	173	43.2	60	10	

	PUNTS			KICKOFFS			INTERCEPTIONS		
RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Abdullah, Ameer	1	-4	0	1	28	28	0	0	0
Thorell, Lance	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	26	26

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Maher, Brett	1st	01:21	20 yards	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
David, Lavonte	6	7	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Compton, Will	5	2	7	-	1-3	-	-	-	-	2	-
Green, Andrew	2	5	7	-	2-3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meredith, C.	2	3	5	1.0-3	1-3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stafford, D.	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Thorell, Lance	0	4	4	-	-	-	-	1-26	-	-	-
Martin, Eric	2	1	3	2.0-14	2-14	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cassidy, Austin	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dennard, A.	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Evans, Ciente	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jackson, Harvey	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ankrah, Jason	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Williams, Josh	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steinkuler, B.	1	1	2	1.0-4	1-4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stoddard, G.	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Richards, Wil	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hardrick, J.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moore, Terrence	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rome, Chase	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Marlowe, Tim	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blatchford, J.	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

MICHIGAN STATE

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Bell, Le'Veon	12	61	3	58	0	11	4.8
Baker, Edwin	10	40	2	38	0	11	3.8
Martin, Keshawn	2	5	0	5	0	5	2.5
Cousins, Kirk	6	21	21	0	0	13	0.0
Totals	30	127	26	101	0	13	3.4

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Cousins, Kirk	11-27-1	86	0	20	4

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Martin, Keshawn	5	58	0	20
Bell, Le'Veon	3	12	0	10
Linthicum, Brian	2	16	0	8
Anderson, Todd	1	0	0	0
Totals	11	86	0	20

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Sadler, Mike	5	182	36.4	40	1	1

	PUNTS			KICKOFFS			INTERCEPTIONS		
RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Martin, Keshawn	3	31	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adams, Johnny	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	25
Hill, Nick	0	0	0	4	119	62	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Conroy, Dan	1st	07:25	52 yards	Missed
Conroy, Dan	2nd	01:38	28 yards	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
Gholston, W.	4	11	15	1.0-5	2-7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rush, Marcus	7	4	11	-	3-4	-	-	-	1	-	-
Elsworth, Kyler	3	7	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robinson, T.	3	5	8	-	1-7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dennard, D.	5	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lewis, Isaiah	3	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allen, Denicos	0	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adams, J.	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	1-25	-	-	-
Bullough, M.	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pickelman, K.	0	5	5	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
White, A.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worthy, Jerel	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lippett, Tony	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jones, Taiwan	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cunningham	1	0	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gardiner, Steve	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drone, Denzel	0	1	1	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drummond, K.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

IN THE RedZone

Bell's TD on reverse tenth longest on all-time list

On Nebraska's first play from scrimmage in the second quarter of its 41-14 victory at Minnesota, wide receiver Kenny Bell took a pitch from I-back Rex Burkhead, who had taken a pitch from quarterback Taylor Martinez, and ran 82 yards for a touchdown.

Actually, Bell ran 92 yards because he was at his own 8-yard line when he got the

Martinez pitch. Just across midfield, he stiff-armed Gopher defensive back Michael Carter, who continued to pursue him. But mostly, the question was whether Bell could stay in-bounds.

So at what point did Bell realize he would score the second touchdown of his Husker career on the reverse? "Before it was called," he said. "I was going to score if I got it."

As he and Martinez were running onto the field, "Taylor actually goes, 'Kenny, if you don't score, don't talk to me,' " said Bell, a redshirted freshman from Boulder, Colo.

"I just said, 'Yeah, all right.' I looked how far I had to go, and I was like, 'Whatever.' "

That wasn't arrogance on the part of either Husker. Rather, it was credit to good planning, "good coaching," Bell said. "Coach (Tim) Beck and the

offensive staff had dialed that one up from day one for a team that had been playing over-aggressive."

Nebraska's offensive staff had done its homework, expecting Minnesota's defense to be as aggressive as it was. "It happened to work out great," said Bell.

"I got a great block from (tackle) Yoshi Hardrick, and (fullback) Tyler Legate stalled a guy up just enough to let me get around him, turn the jets on and go in."

Coach Bo Pelini also credited Beck. "I thought it was a good design," he said the next Monday. "I thought it could have been blocked a little better . . . but you see that Kenny Bell is a pretty explosive guy. I thought he showed tremendous balance on the sideline.

"I'm not sure how he was able to keep his balance and stay in."





ERIC CROUCH

Other Huskers could have made the reverse work, too, according to Bell. “The play wasn’t directed just for me,” he said. “It could have been anybody.”

When he got to the end zone, before jumping into a bear hug by tight end Ben Cotton, Bell raised his gloved hands, with “303” on them, forming a triangle above his head. Then he tapped his heart, in tribute to his hometown of Boulder -- which is in area code 303.

“It’s a thing that was developed in Boulder,” Bell said. “It’s something everybody does in Boulder, letting ‘em know I love ‘em, thinking about ‘em.

“I love my hometown.”

Bell’s 82-yard touchdown run tied for 10th on Nebraska’s all-time list. He’s the only wide receiver on the list.

Longest Touchdown Runs in School History

<i>Eric Crouch (at Missouri, Sept. 29, 2001)</i>	95 yards
<i>Roger Craig (Florida State, Sept. 19, 1981)</i>	94 yards
<i>Craig Johnson (Kansas, Oct. 13, 1979)</i>	94 yards
<i>Mike Rozier (at Kansas State, Oct. 17, 1981)</i>	93 yards
<i>Tyreese Knox (Missouri, Oct. 18, 1986)</i>	92 yards
<i>Calvin Jones (Oklahoma State, Oct. 10, 1992)</i>	90 yards
<i>Jarvis Redwine (Oklahoma, Nov. 22, 1980)</i>	89 yards
<i>Cory Ross (Missouri, Oct. 30, 2004)</i>	86 yards
<i>Tom Rathman (Colorado, Oct. 26, 1985)</i>	84 yards
<i>Kenny Bell (at Minnesota, Oct. 22, 2011)</i>	82 yards
<i>Rick Berns (Missouri, Nov. 18, 1978)</i>	82 yards
<i>Isaiah Hipp (at Kansas, Oct. 8, 1977)</i>	82 yards

Huskers land No. 8

Junior college linebacker Zaire Anderson commits to play for Nebraska; California prospect shows interest

A little bit of flattery went a long way with new Nebraska commit Zaire Anderson – the junior college linebacker just had to do a little research first.

Nebraska defensive coordinator Carl Pelini told Anderson, a 6-1, 220-pound linebacker from Riverside (Calif.) Community College, that he played like current Nebraska linebacker Lavonte David. Anderson hadn't heard of David, but after a quick Google search, appreciated the comparison.

"It made me feel real good," Anderson told Huskers Illustrated. "I really liked the program. I loved the defensive coordinator and what they've accomplished over the past couple years."

A native of Philadelphia, Anderson said he grew up watching Penn State, Michigan and Ohio State, and liked the rich history of Nebraska football.

"It was one of the schools that was the most interested," Anderson said. "I looked into the tradition and liked what I saw."

He became the eighth known commitment of

Nebraska's 2012 class and the third linebacker commit, joining Deion Jones of New Orleans and Michael Rose from Kansas City.

Anderson initially tried to commit earlier in the week, but NCAA rules limit coaches to just one phone call per week with recruits. Anderson said he talked with Pelini on Thursday to officially deliver the news. Anderson told Huskers Illustrated that he plans to visit Lincoln at the end of November after Riverside concludes its season.

The question for Anderson is when he will come to Lincoln. His final term at Riverside CC would end in February, but Anderson said he spoke with Pelini about possibly graduating early so that he can start at Nebraska in January. Once on campus, he'll have three years to complete two seasons of eligibility.

Anderson has played both middle and outside linebacker at Riverside, but said he prefers playing middle linebacker. He anchors one of the top junior college defenses in California and

plays tough against the run. Anderson started last season for Riverside and notched 81 tackles and eight sacks.

Linebacker is a position of need for Nebraska and getting a solid contributor immediately would be a boon for Nebraska. Anderson is strong against the run and was leading Riverside in tackles through five games. He led a defensive effort that held top junior college running back Domenic Betts to just 24 yards rushing on 25 carries.

"I think I can stop the run pretty good, and I'm good at finding the ball," Anderson said. "I've got a good sense of getting to the ball and making plays. I'm pretty good on the edge as well."

CALIFORNIA PROSPECT LIKES NEBRASKA

Sacramento (Calif.) Sheldon jumbo athlete Nate Iese (pronounced 'Yessay') has had a monster senior season resulting in several scholarship offers. The 6-foot-4, 235 pound athlete is being recruited to play tight end, defensive end or both by some programs.

Sartor Hamann
presents
**DIAMONDS IN
THE ROUGH**
Each week on
Huskers Illustrated Radio



SARTORHAMANN.COM

Iese indicated that Nebraska will get one of his official visits.

Iese has nearly 10 scholarship offers but has begun to focus on five schools from his list of offers.

According to Iese, Nebraska and UCLA lead the way as his top programs with Nevada, Washington and Oregon State next in line. He has only taken one official visit so far to Washington State but plans on taking all five visits before making a decision.

"I'm still open to any other program that wants to recruit me but right now I'm looking hard at Nebraska and UCLA," Iese said. "Coach (Carl) Pelini is recruiting me from Nebraska and they are showing me a lot of interest. They are just a great football university and a great college academically."

"UCLA is also very solid in academics and football. They are obviously a lot closer to home, but that doesn't matter to me. If Nebraska is the best fit for me, then I won't think twice about leaving California."

Each program will get

an official visit, as will Nevada. Iese is deciding whether to visit Washington or Oregon State for the final visit.

Coaches have commented on his 'feel for the game' among other qualities.

"A lot of coaches tell me I have good footwork and athleticism," he said. "I have played football throughout all of high school but once recruiting picked up this year I really started to pick things up. I've been told I have a lot of things to learn but I have a high ceiling for development. Some schools like me at defensive end, others at tight end. Some programs want me for either."

DIGGS WEIGHING OPTIONS

Jordan Diggs has a lot of schools recruiting him these days, but he seems to be focusing on just a few of those programs right now.

Nebraska is in the running to land Jordan Diggs, but the Huskers have some competition.

When asked after his game Friday night which schools are standing out right now, Diggs replied, "Tennessee, Ole Miss, South Carolina, Vandy, Michigan State and Nebraska."

With the Huskers playing host to the Spartans on Saturday, Diggs will have the opportunity to see two of those schools go head-to-head.

The rising senior safety from Island Coast High School in Cape Coral, Fla., also indicated he has set up a few official visits in November.

"My next visit is Nov. 5 to the

University of Tennessee," Diggs said. "I'll be at South Carolina on the 11th, and the fifth visit will either be Ole Miss or Michigan State."

Diggs, who's rated a four-star prospect by 247Sports, has a strong and well-documented relationship with Nebraska commit Michael Rose. He and Rose have referred to themselves as brothers, and the bond appears to be strong.

Is it strong enough to make Nebraska his leader? That still remains to be seen. Diggs has been to Nebraska on an unofficial and an official visit, but his family also has ties to South Carolina.

In addition, Diggs also spoke very highly of Tennessee on Friday night. Vols quarterbacks coach Darin Hinshaw was there to see Diggs in action.

"It was great to see him out there," Diggs said about Hinshaw. "I'm going up there to get a better feel for Tennessee. I was there over the summer at their camp. I want to go up again and get a full feel for the atmosphere."

Diggs said he could make a decision soon.

"If I wake up in the morning and it's in my heart, then I'll know I'm ready," he said.

In the meantime, he is focused on helping his Island Coast team rebound from a tough loss Friday night.

"The big play guys on our team, we just couldn't pull it off tonight," Diggs said. "This is my time to step up. I put this on my shoulders and we'll go to practice Monday and work hard."

2012 NEBRASKA COMMITS



★★★★

GREG MCMULLEN

DE, 6-5, 225, Akron, Ohio
(Archbishop Hoban)
247Sports Rating: 94



★★★★

MICHAEL ROSE

LB, 6-0, 225, Kansas City Mo.
(Rockhurst)
247Sports Rating: 93



★★★★

PAUL THURSTON

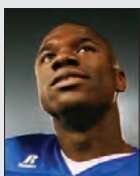
OT, 6-5, 275, Arvada, Colo.
(Arvada West)
247Sports Rating: 92



★★★★

JORDAN WESTERKAMP

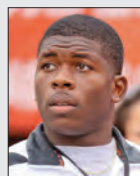
WR, 6-1, 190, Lombard, Ill.
(Montini Catholic)
247Sports Rating: 90



★★★

DEION JONES

OLB, 6-2, 200, New Orleans
(Jesuit)
247Sports Rating: 88



★★★

TOMMY ARMSTRONG

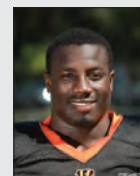
QB, 6-1, 200, Schertz, Texas
(Byron P Steele)
247Sports Rating: 86



★★★

SAM COTTON

TE, 6-4, 235, Lincoln, Neb.
(Lincoln Southeast)
247Sports Rating: 81



ZAIRE ANDERSON

LB, 6-0, 220, Riverside, Calif.
(Riverside CC)
247Sports Rating: NR

Werth's vision, leadership coming together in Big Ten

Junior struggled at season start but showing solid numbers in conference play | BOB HAMAR



HANNAH WERTH WASN'T REALLY HANNAH WERTH EARLY THIS SEASON. THERE WAS SOMETHING MISSING.

Her hitting percentage was languishing at under .150 during the early non-conference portion of the season. The Nebraska junior outside hitter just couldn't get going offensively.

Maybe it was just the goggles.

Werth had started wearing goggles last season because of a vision problem that has affected her since she was young,

and they seemed to help. She thought during the off-season that she could get along without the goggles, but then volleyball started, and so did classes. After early-season struggles, Werth started wearing a new pair of goggles and the results were obvious.

"It doesn't just affect me on the volleyball court, but in the classroom, too," Werth said. "It's a struggle, but God puts those things

in your life so you can improve and persevere. I'm really lucky to have those obstacles, but the goggles help a lot. I'm just thankful Nebraska has such good people to resource off of."

Werth's statistics took a definite jump after her slow start. Werth was hitting a robust .311 through the first half of Big Ten Conference play. That included 17 kills and a .536 hitting percentage in a 3-0 sweep at Wisconsin on Oct. 14, and another 15 kills the next night in a 3-2 win at Minnesota.

Nebraska coach John Cook said the success of sophomore rightside hitter Morgan Broekhuis also helped loosen things up for Werth.

"Teams are loading up on Morgan because she's top 10 in hitting and kills per game," Cook said. "If you're going to load up on Morgan, then Hannah is going to get a lot of one-on-ones. She put the ball away. That's one of the reasons she had big numbers.

"That's why we want to be balanced, so you can't just defend one person on our team."

Werth had another big match with 14 kills on .437

Huskers Improve

John Cook remembers watching the Huskers struggle in a 3-2 win over New Mexico State to open the season. During that match, he turned to his assistants and said that might be the worst a Nebraska team has ever played during his time as head coach.

But on Oct. 24, the Huskers moved up to No. 1 in the American Volleyball Coaches Association ratings after their win over previously top-ranked Illinois.

"I know when we started how bad we were," Cook said. "All the credit goes to those players and the leaders on this team -- Brigitte Root, Jordan Wilberger, Brooke (Delano), who are the seniors -- are doing something to get these kids to believe and to perform like this. They're figuring it out. That's what you want as a team."

Finding Their Stride

The Nebraska offense seemed to be kicking it into high gear in the win over the Illini. They had four players with double-digit kills who also hit over .300 in the win.

"That would be like (Nebraska quarterback) Taylor Martinez having two running backs with 100 yards and two receivers with 10 catches and 150 yards," Cook said. "That was a great effort. When you get four hitters with double-digit kills and hitting over .300, that's a pretty special day."

Open National Race

The NCAA Tournament should be interesting in December when a number of teams with realistic hopes of winning a national championship. Cook said Southern Cal, UCLA, California, and possibly Washington, could all have a chance from the Pac-12. He said Penn State, Nebraska, Illinois and Purdue from the Big Ten could be thinking of a national crown along with Florida from the SEC, Texas from the Big 12 and Hawaii.

2011 Volleyball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
AUG. 20	RED/WHITE MATCH	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
<i>MCM ELEGANTE LOBO CLASSIC</i>			
AUG. 26	NEW MEXICO ST.	AT ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.	3-2 (W)
AUG. 27	NEW MEXICO	AT ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 2	COLORADO STATE	AT FORT COLLINS, COLO.	2-3 (L)
SEPT. 3	ALBANY	AT FORT COLLINS, COLO.	3-0 (W)
<i>AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE</i>			
SEPT. 8	CREIGHTON	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 9	ST. MARY'S	NU COLISEUM	3-2 (W)
SEPT. 10	WEBER STATE	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 17	IOWA STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 21	PENN STATE*	NU COLISEUM	3-2 (W)
SEPT. 24	OHIO STATE*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
SEPT. 30	MICHIGAN STATE*	AT EAST LANSING, MICH.	3-2 (W)
OCT. 1	MICHIGAN*	AT ANN ARBOR, MICH.	3-0 (W)
OCT. 7	PURDUE*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
OCT. 8	INDIANA*	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
OCT. 14	WISCONSIN*	AT MADISON, WIS.	3-0 (W)
OCT. 15	MINNESOTA*	AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	3-2 (W)
OCT. 19	IOWA*	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
OCT. 22	ILLINOIS*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
OCT. 28	OHIO STATE*	AT COLUMBUS, OHIO	7 P.M.
OCT. 29	PENN STATE*	AT UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.	7 P.M.
NOV. 4	MICHIGAN*	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
NOV. 5	MICHIGAN STATE*	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
NOV. 11	INDIANA*	AT BLOOMINGTON, IND.	7 P.M.
NOV. 12	PURDUE*	AT WEST LAFAYETTE, IND.	6 P.M.
NOV. 16	MINNESOTA*	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
NOV. 19	WISCONSIN*	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
NOV. 23	IOWA*	AT IOWA CITY, IOWA	7 P.M.
NOV. 26	NORTHWESTERN*	AT EVANSTON, ILL.	7 P.M.
<i>NCAA TOURNAMENT</i>			
DEC. 1-3	1ST/2ND ROUNDS	AT CAMPUS SITES	TBA
DEC. 9-10	REGIONALS		TBA
(AT LEXINGTON/GAINESVILLE/HONOLULU/MINNEAPOLIS)			
DEC. 15-17	FINAL FOUR	AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	TBA

* BIG TEN MATCH;

ALL TIMES CENTRAL, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



HANNAH
WERTH

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

hitting in a 3-1 victory over then No. 1-rated Illinois on Oct. 22. That brought her season's hitting percentage up to .243, almost equal to the .245 she produced for the 2010 season.

Even when Werth was struggling offensively, she was still doing all the things that helped her earn the Big 12 Conference defensive player of the year award last season along with being named an AVCA second-team All-American. Werth stood second on the team in digs per set behind libero Lara Dykstra at the halfway point of the Big Ten season.

Werth said that's just the way she plays.

"If I couldn't put the ball away, I sure enough was going to try to get a perfect pass for someone else or try to get a dig or try to get an ace," Werth said. "It's just kind of like trying to give back, whatever I

can do to help our team out. And it's not just me. Everybody on the team is a part of that process."

Broekhuis said Werth just kept doing her job right through the tough times.

"She's always talking, always encouraging," Broekhuis said. "She is always a presence, so whether her play is there or not she's still bringing that presence. Maybe her offensive numbers weren't there, but she was making great plays on defense and getting blocks and ace serves. All those are game-changers."

For Werth, it's all about the team.

"Anything I can do to better some balls and get points for my team," Werth said. "All I can do is go out there and work my butt off. I know my teammates are working just as hard for me."

THIS ISSUE BASKETBALL WOMEN'S GOLF SOCCER SWIMMING MEN'S TENNIS



NEW MEN'S BASKETBALL LOCKERROOM

NEW COMPLEX UNVEILED

As Nebraska officially unveiled its new basketball practice facility, men's coach Doc Sadler told those present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony about some of the planning details.

Sadler remembered when Neal Hawks, the son of Nebraska regent

and donor Howard Hawks, told him before a game in Texas a few years ago how Nebraska's new facility would compare to the Longhorns'.

"He said, 'Doc, we're going to do something that is going to make Texas jealous,'" Sadler said. "We want a players' lounge second to none. So I thought, 'OK,

whatever.' "

Turns out, Hawks was serious. The Nebraska players' lounge, named for Neal and Jamie Hawks, has 401 inches of high-definition televisions, plus another video wall with nine plasma monitors. There's a custom-made pool table imported from England, and 25 stereo speakers

SOCCER BEATS IOWA

Nebraska, which snapped a five-game losing streak with a 3-2 victory at Ohio State, returned home and shut out Iowa 1-0 to keeps its hopes alive for qualifying for the Big Ten Conference Tournament.

Morgan Marlborough, who had two second-half goals at Ohio State, scored the game-winner in overtime against Iowa.

It was her sixth game-winning goal of the season and the 19th of her career. She has 58 career goals.

Goalkeeper Emma Stevens had six saves and recorded her third shutout of the season.

throughout the lounge and locker room area.

This is all part of the \$18.7 million Hendricks Training Complex for basketball and wrestling, named for the Tom and Mary Hendricks family, who provided a lead gift equaling more than half of the total price tag.

Nebraska athletic director Tom Osborne said the facility turned out better than he expected, and for a total cost less than many others NU officials visited.

“We saw many that were priced at \$25 million

to \$30 million,” Osborne said. “I can tell you this one here for \$18.7 million — probably more like \$19 million now — I thought we got tremendous bang for our buck. I don’t think we saw any that were better.”

The facility, attached to the south side of the Devaney Sports Center, has two practice gyms — one for the men, named for former all-conference player Bus Whitehead, and the other for the women. Both gyms have 103-inch televisions so coaches can show practice film

or scouting video on the court.

The wrestling room has four mats — twice that of the old room — and the weight room is more than triple the size of the previous weight room in the Devaney Sports Center.

Coaches have new offices upstairs, with balconies overlooking the gyms. The lobby features a granite basketball fountain — the ball weighs 5,500 pounds and was imported from China.

In the locker rooms, players each have iPads at their lockers. The

floors are heated, a towel warmer sits outside two large whirlpools, and the individual shower stalls each have a rain shower head and dual side shower heads.

Each shower also has a speaker so players can play the music from their lockers in their showers.

“I can’t believe it,” said senior guard Toney McCray, who toured the complete facility for the first time only a couple of hours before the official ceremony. “They told us the stuff we were going to get and all the stuff that



PHOTO COURTESY NEBRASKA SPORTS INFORMATION

was going to happen, but man . . . Turns out, they got all the stuff they said was going to be here.”

Lindsey Moore, a starting guard on the women’s team, said the final product exceeded her expectations.

“I heard it was going to be nice and that there was a lot of money and hard work put in this thing, but I really had no idea what that meant. Now I can see exactly what that means.”

Her favorite part?

“The whole locker room,” she said, “because I don’t foresee any of us leaving that area. We’ve got computers, can do homework, TVs, kitchen. Our court’s right there. I could live there. All I need is a pillow and I’ll be set.”

The Nebraska men held their first practice, on Oct. 15, in their new home.

“The first and foremost thing is we

wanted a room we could have good practices in,” Sadler said. “Then the extras, the personal touches...I can’t imagine a nicer one in the country.”

GOLF FINISHES FOURTH

Madeleine Sheils fired a final-round 72 to finish in a tie for fourth place, leading the women’s golf team to a fourth-place finish at the Hoosier Fall Invitational at the Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Ind.

Sheils, a senior from Boise, Idaho, had three birdies in her first five holes on the second day of competition on holes 5 through 9, after producing just two birdies in the first two rounds combined.

WEECH SETS BEST TIME

Nebraska junior Ariel Weech set a lifetime best in the 100-yard freestyle in the Pan American games in Guadalajara, Mexico on Wednesday

evening. Her time of 57.58 landed her a victory in the consolation finals, earning Weech a ninth-place finish overall.

Weech, who is representing the Bahamas at the Games, also helped her 4-by-100 relay team finish fifth.

NU WINS DOUBLES TITLE

Christopher Aum Mueller and Benedikt Lindheim won the doubles championship at the Oklahoma Invitational. The duo defeated Oklahoma State’s Vlad Bondarenko and Rifat Biktyakov 8-3 to reach the finals, where they then defeated Arkansas’ Nikolas Zogaj and Manfred Jeske 8-3.

Nebraska’s other doubles team of Eric Sock and Tom Blackwell won the consolation bracket.

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2011 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat, Sept. 3	TN at Chattanooga	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 10	Fresno State	6 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 17	Washington	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 24	Wyoming	6:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 1	Wisconsin *	7 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 8	Ohio State *	7 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 22	Minnesota *	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 29	Michigan State *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 5	Northwestern *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 12	Penn State *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 19	Michigan *	TBA
Fri, Nov. 25	Iowa *	11 a.m.

** Conference Games*

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BACK ON TOP

The Nebraska volleyball team made history with a 3-1 (24-26, 25-18, 25-19, 25-11) victory over the previously undefeated and No. 1-ranked Illinois Fighting Illini at the Nebraska Coliseum on Oct. 22. Morgan Broekhuis led Nebraska's offensive attack with 17 kills and just one error on 36 attacks, while Gina Mancuso (#7) added 15 kills and Hanna Werth (left) added another 14 kills. The win marked the last time a Husker team beat the No. 1 team in the country since Sept. 6, 1990 when No. 3 Nebraska took down No. 1 UCLA in a 3-2 win.

PHOTO BY JOHN PETERSON







25,786

SATISFIED PARTICIPANTS IN 2011



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CATCHING UP WITH MARV MUELLER

BY RANDY YORK

At 65, NU Academic All-American, '67 Captain still farming

Big Red fans everywhere know how often Tom Osborne, Ron Brown and others correlate Nebraska football with Cornhusker farming, so it's only fitting to take that comparative analysis to someone who qualifies as an authority in both passionate disciplines.

Meet Marv Mueller (pronounced Miller). He was a three-year starter for Bob Devaney. As a sophomore in 1965, he intercepted five passes on NU's unbeaten Big Eight championship team. As a junior in 1966, he became a first-team Academic All-American while majoring in mechanical engineering. And as a senior in 1967, he was named a team captain and was voted Nebraska's first-ever winner of the coveted Guy Chamberlin Trophy.

No one can dispute Mueller's athletic pedigree, and he has the farm

credentials to match, growing up on 320 acres near Columbus, Neb., on land that included livestock, corn and soybeans. Mueller admits he wasn't crazy living on a farm in his youth but discovered how much he missed it shortly after getting his college degree. When Mueller moved back to Lincoln, where he would teach 27 years at Lincoln High, Marv and wife Kathy bought their own land east of Lincoln and started dabbling in farming while raising their two children.

"I farmed after hours or hired people to do it for me," said Mueller, who bought a tractor and a bailer in 1976 and has rarely looked back since. Even when farming was a part-time job, a passion that he continues full-time now at age 65, Mueller could see how much farming equated to the

fundamentals he learned in football. "There are very common qualities in both," he said.

"Work ethic is a big requirement in both. So is goal-setting," Mueller said. "Both give you a strong sense of accomplishment, but working hard is the main thing. Seeing how much you can change and develop is the other thing. Obviously, you can fail in both, but you can always try again and learn how to do it better the next time. Crop after crop and play after play, you learn something every time you farm and every time you play football. I think that's why so many people equate football to agriculture. Both take great dedication to succeed, and both take a huge learning process."

And that brings Mueller to one more critical aspect of what he considers Nebraska's unique formula for football prosperity. "I think that walk-on program here that was sort of abandoned for a while certainly exemplifies Nebraska football in the best way possible," said

"Crop after crop and play after play, you learn something every time you farm and every time you play football. I think that's why so many people equate football to agriculture. Both take great dedication to succeed, and both take a huge learning process."

Mueller, a scholarship recruit who always held walk-ons in the highest regard. "At Nebraska, there's a pressure and a standard that you have to meet or exceed, and as the walk-ons get better, the pressure to perform gets greater. You have to have a reason to get better every day. That's true in football, and it's true in agriculture."

Mueller is part of both worlds, and both have intersected nicely because he still lives in one and still loves following the other as a long-time season-ticket holder.



GAMES REMEMBERED | 1971 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Another Blackshirt Blanking

Rich Sanger's three field goals help lead Huskers to third shutout in five Big Eight games

FOR THE THIRD TIME in five Big Eight games, the Husker Blackshirts posted a shutout.

Linebacker Bill Sloey, who had missed most of the season because of a knee injury suffered in the opener against Oregon, preserved the shutout by recovering a fumble by Iowa State quarterback Dean Carlson deep in Husker territory with 4:36 remaining.

The Cyclones managed only 105 total yards, including 65 rushing on 46 carries. In addition to the fumble recovery, Nebraska intercepted three passes, two by defensive linemen.

Linebacker Bob Terrio led the Blackshirts with 11 tackles. Tackle Larry

Jacobson and end Willie Harper were each credited with seven tackles.

Jacobson also had one of the interceptions.

Terrio and Jacobson were among 19 Husker seniors, 11 of them starters, playing in their final home game. Terrio, offensive linemen Dick Rupert, Carl Johnson and Keith Wortman, and wide receiver Woody Cox were all junior college transfers and had never played in a loss at Nebraska.

That's how they would finish their careers, 24-0-1 with two national titles.

Rich Sanger (pictured) kicked three fields. The sophomore from Ovid, Colo., had kicked his only successful field goal of

the season in the previous game against Colorado, following three misses.

Nebraska went into the game leading the nation in total defense and ranking second to Michigan in scoring defense. The Wolverines remained first, by one-tenth of a point (5.1 ppg).

The Huskers awarded the game ball to freshman coach Jim Ross, who suffered a serious knee injury (requiring hospitalization and surgery) the previous afternoon in a first-quarter sideline collision with players during the freshman team's 54-15 victory against the Iowa State freshmen.

NEBRASKA 37, IOWA STATE 0

Nov. 6, 1971 • Memorial Stadium

Iowa State	0	0	0	0	--	0
Nebraska	10	10	7	10	--	37

- (N) Rich Sanger 28 field goal
- (N) Johnny Rodgers 10 run (Sanger kick)
- (N) Rodgers 62 punt return (Sanger kick)
- (N) Sanger 27 field goal
- (N) Jerry Tagge 1 run (Sanger kick)
- (N) Sanger 39 field goal
- (N) Van Brownson 1 run (Sanger kick)

Attendance: 67,201

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► *The week of the game, Congress was conducting hearings on athlete safety issues, in particular knee and ankle injuries, regarding artificial surfaces. The hearings included representatives from AstroTurf and 3M's Tartan Turf. Memorial Stadium had an AstroTurf surface.*

► *Husker coach Bob Devaney didn't miss practice during the week, despite reportedly suffering from a severe cold, the flu and bronchitis.*

► *Husker senior cornerback Jim Anderson started his 32nd consecutive game at Nebraska, dating from the 1969 opener against USC as a sophomore.*

► *The Husker freshman team's victory on Friday was its third that season and its eighth in a row. Ritche Bahe, a wingback from Fremont, Neb., scored three touchdowns, returning a missed field goal 100 yards and a punt 77 yards as well as catching a pass for 19 yards.*

CROSSWORD &TRIVIA

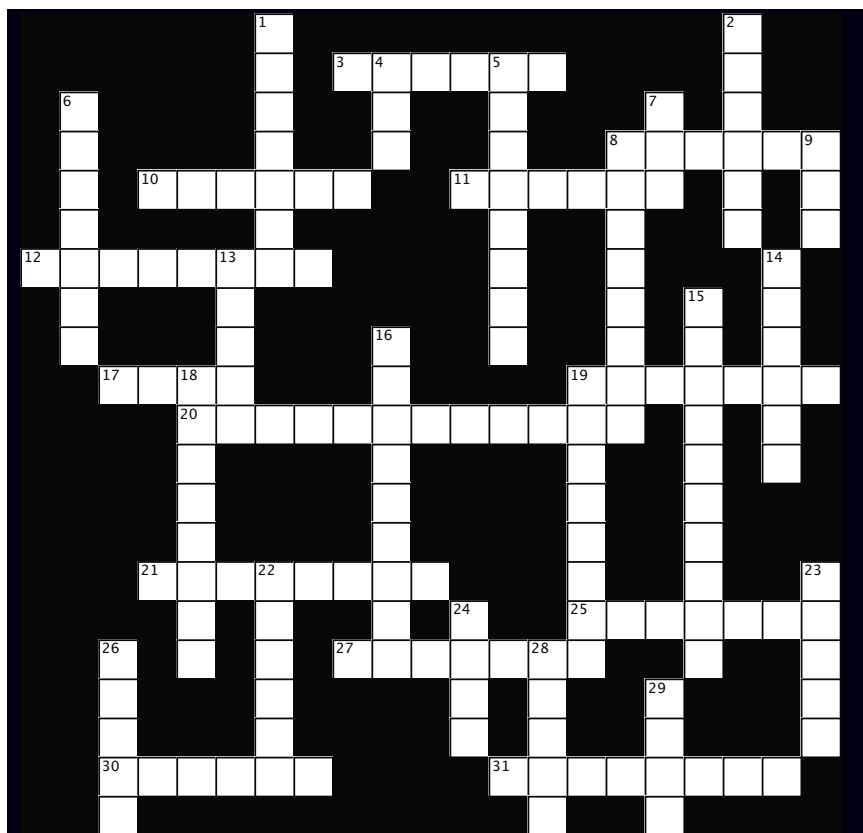
ACROSS

3. Backup quarterback
8. Northwestern school color
10. Caught touchdown pass vs. Minnesota
11. Wears No. 9 (defense)
12. Nov. 19 opponent
17. Started vs. Minnesota in place of injured defensive tackle Crick
19. 1997 Lombardi Award winner
20. City for Big 10 Championship game
21. Leading rusher vs. Minnesota
25. Wears No. 6 (offense)
27. NU's division in the Big 10
30. Wears No. 10 (offense)
31. Northwestern nickname

DOWN


1. Ameer Abdullah's home state
2. Wears No. 6 (defense)
4. Network for NU-Iowa telecast
5. Northwestern campus location
6. Returned fumble for touchdown vs. Minnesota
7. 2009 Lombardi Award winner
8. Recruiting coordinator
9. Linebackers coach
13. Wears No. 2 (offense)
14. Ex-Husker center now with Detroit Lions
15. Northwestern head coach
16. Nov. 12 opponent
18. Will Compton's home state
19. Ex-Husker linebacker now with Kansas City Chiefs
22. Had career-long 61-yard reception vs. Minnesota
23. Wears No. 5 (offense)
24. Scored touchdown on only carry vs. Minnesota
26. Wears No. 13 (defense)
28. Co-leader in tackles vs. Minnesota
29. Ex-Husker punter now with Baltimore Ravens

Answers will appear in the Nov. 12 issue.



THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION





BRAIN BUSTER

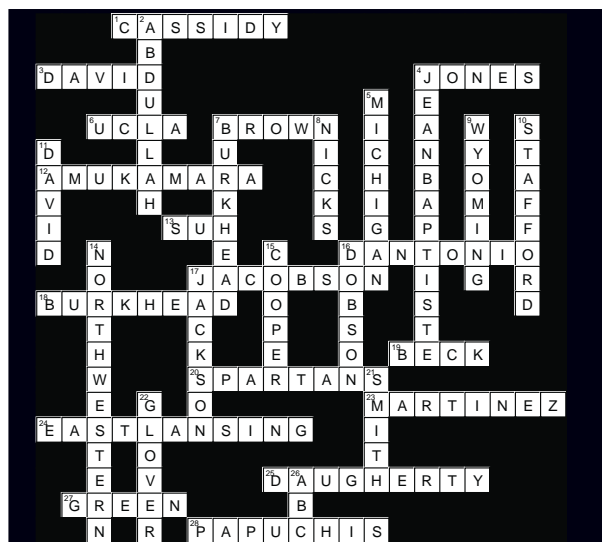
THREE IN ONE: Here's an interesting NCAA record held by Nebraska: Most players reaching 2,000 career-rushing yards in the same season. Three Huskers did it. Can you name them?

Hint: They did it in 2000.

Answer will appear in our next issue

OCT. 8 ANSWER: D. Gerald Armstrong (1992)

OCT. 29 SOLUTION



Huskers use old-school approach in win over Spartans

BY MIKE BABCOCK

With 7:42 remaining in the first half of Nebraska's 24-3 victory against Michigan State, Husker offensive tackle Yoshi Hardrick had to be helped from the field.

His left ankle had gotten "rolled pretty bad."

As he neared the sideline, Hardrick threw his mouthpiece in disgust.

"It just scared me the first thing," he said afterward, his left ankle wrapped in ice. "I didn't think they (coaches) was going to let me back."

The injury occurred on third down, preceding a Brett Maher punt. The next time Nebraska got the ball, just over 2 minutes had elapsed on the game clock. And Hardrick was back at left tackle.

He knew his fellow linemen would have done the same.

Also, offensive line coach Barney Cotton demanded no less.

"I told 'em . . . they can't be hurt," Cotton said.

"I mean, they've just got to keep ticking. I told 'em, 'You'd better be getting treatment after the game today, and two or three times tomorrow, and Monday. But you guys can't miss any time.'"

Offensive guard Andrew Rodriguez wasn't about to argue. He played with, among other things, a broken toe and a bruised triceps, "a messed up body," he said with a smile.

Rodriguez never came out. Neither did tackle Marcel Jones. Nor guard Spencer Long. The only back-ups who played were tackle Jeremiah Sirles and center Cole Pensick. And they played briefly, of necessity, until those they replaced could get back on the field.

That was the game plan, "to go like what we did against Ohio State," Cotton said.

The games were similar in that sense. They were both old-school, the Big Ten as it once was, the conference of Woody Hayes, grainy black-and-white, defense and 3-yards and a cloud of dust. About the only thing missing was a third-down punt or two to enhance field position.

It was "two good defenses and two physical football teams just kind of slugging it out," said Cotton. "There wasn't a lot of prettiness to it, from our standpoint."

Prettiness is in the eye of the beholder, defined however one wants. The play might



(The game was) old-school, the Big Ten as it once was, the conference of Woody Hayes, grainy black-and-white, defense and 3-yards and a cloud of dust.

not have been pretty, but the scoreboard was pretty enough.

Slug it out the teams did, strength against strength, Nebraska's running game against a Michigan State defense that ranked second nationally overall and eighth against the run.

Cotton described it as "banging their head up against the wall," putting a "hat on a hat . . . and sometimes they were better than us and sometimes we were better than them," he said.

The Huskers' offensive approach worked, according to Cotton, because of the running of Rex Burkhead and the game management of quarterback Taylor Martinez.

And because of Nebraska's defense, a "true Blackshirt defense today," Cotton said.

Michigan State's defense drew most of the attention prior to the game, but the Husker defense carried the day, grudgingly giving up 187 yards, a lone second-quarter field goal, and earning the right to wear coveted black practice jerseys for the first time this season.

Burkhead carried 35 times, two short of the school record, for 130 yards, and he scored two touchdowns, the second on a 27-yard pass play not long after having to be helped from the field because of severe cramping in his calves, primarily the left.

When he caught the pass from Martinez, late in the third quarter, "once I was in the open field, all I was thinking about was, 'Please don't cramp up right now,'" Burkhead said. "And so right when I caught it and turned, I started feeling the tightness a little."

Then in the end zone, he jumped into Ben Cotton in celebration and cramped up.

"So that wasn't smart," said Burkhead.

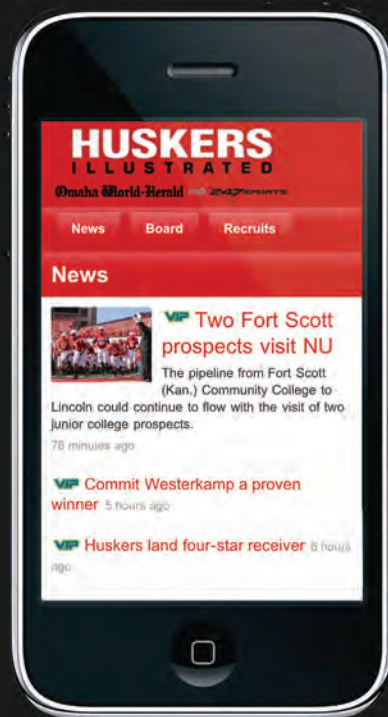
But he would come back to carry four more times in the fourth quarter before calling it a day, definitely an old-school day. **N**

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